



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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December 4, 2007

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV300-8-6

SUBJECT: LTP – FY2008 EQIP Revised Timeline

Purpose: To provide a revised timeline for the FY 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and announce a second ranking period.

Expiration Date: This Bulletin expires September 30, 2008

Background West Virginia's allocation for EQIP in FY08 is \$5,119,450 for financial assistance (FA). However, an additional \$3,365,324 FA has been placed in a drawing account for WV to satisfy regional equity. WV may request funds from the drawing account after obligating 95% of the original allocation and having demonstrated a need for additional funds through accumulated eligible applications. After April 1, 2008, funds in the regional equity drawing account will be available to all states. When a new Farm Bill is signed, rule changes are expected which will delay any additional contracting activity for EQIP. This may mean the loss of our chance at securing the Regional Equity Allocation for WV.

Explanation A second end of ranking for EQIP is set for December 28, 2007. This will allow program applicants who missed the first ranking period an opportunity to participate in EQIP this fiscal year.

ASTC(FO)s and DCs are strongly encouraged to share this information with the Local Work Groups to keep them informed of upcoming activities. Press releases will also be available this week for you to share with local news outlets.

Attached is a revised timeline for Farm Bill Programs. Note that these dates may be shortened if the Farm Bill progresses faster than expected. It is important that activities are completed as soon as possible rather than waiting until deadlines approach.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Herbert Andrick, ASTC-Programs at 304-284-7560.

/s/
KEVIN WICKEY
State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: A,F



FY 2008 Farm Bill Timeline

Revised 12/4/2008

EQIP 1st ranking

September - October 2007 LWGs meet and provide advice regarding any changes in LWG Priority Resource Concerns, Ranking Criteria, and Practice Lists.

October 1, 2007 NRCS and Local Work Group members announce availability of EQIP information and end of ranking period. Conduct Concentrated Public Outreach.

October 12, 2007 DCs send information in electronic format to Herb Andrick and their ASTC (FO). DC's will clearly identify any recommended changes in the ranking criteria from FY 2007. The State Conservationist must approve any changes.

November 16, 2007 End of Ranking Period.

January 18, 2008 DCs complete ranking of applications. All EQIP applications, cost estimates and ranking data are entered into ProTracts. Application status is moved from pending to eligible.

January 22, 2008 Lead DCs will select applications for contract development, based on ranking points and funding availability, from the ProTracts database. The "Lead DC" in the LWG will coordinate and confirm applications selected for contract development with the other DCs, the ASTC (FO), and the ASTC (Programs).

January 24, 2008 DC notifies the applicants selected for contract development via letter, using ProTracts.

February 29, 2008 All Contract folders delivered to Area staff for review and contract obligation. DC's will promptly notify the ASTC (FO) and ASTC (Operations) in writing of any problems with applicant cancellations. All conservation plans and contract support documents will be developed in Toolkit. The contract support documents will be uploaded into ProTracts, according to the guidance and instructions for the use of ProTracts.

March 7, 2008 All contracts obligated in ProTracts

EQIP 2nd ranking

December 28, 2007 End of Ranking Period.

February 1, 2008 DCs complete ranking of applications. All EQIP applications, cost estimates and ranking data are entered into ProTracts. Application status is moved from pending to eligible.

February 5, 2008 Lead DCs will select applications for contract development, based on ranking points and funding availability, from the ProTracts database. The "Lead DC" in the LWG will coordinate and confirm applications selected for contract development with the other DCs, the ASTC (FO), and the ASTC (Programs).

February 7, 2008 DC notifies the applicants selected for contract development via letter, using ProTracts.

February 29, 2008 All Contract folders delivered to Area staff for review and contract obligation. DC's will promptly notify the ASTC (FO) and ASTC (Operations) in writing of any problems with applicant cancellations. All conservation plans and contract support documents will be developed in Toolkit. The contract support documents will be uploaded into ProTracts, according to the guidance and instructions for the use of ProTracts.

March 7, 2008 All contracts obligated in ProTracts

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Applications will be forwarded to the State Office as received.